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NEW-YORK, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1899.—EIGHTEEN PAGES.

BRITISH WIN A BATTLE. BOER ATTACK ON THE CAMP AT GLENCOE REPULSED.

A DECISIVE BUT COSTLY VICTORY FOR
ENGLAND'S ARMS—HEAVY LOSSES ON
BOTH SIDES—BRILLIANT CHARGE
BY THE IRISH REGIMENT.

BY JOHN T. THOMAS

London, Oct. 21.—The first pitched battle has

ended in a decisive victory for British arms. Anticipations that a general engagement would

turn out as amply fulfilled,

and in a manner highly satisfactory to English

pride as was shown by the jubilant air of the

London streets last night. At 5 o'clock the

over-attacked General Symons's camp at Glen-

coe with big guns mounted on the heights

above. The British gunners responded with re-

markable accuracy and silenced the Boer arti-

llery. The King's Royal Rifles, the First Bat-

talion and the Dublin Fusiliers, old mates in

camp at Cape Town last year, then attacked

the heights at 2,000 yards' range, drove the

Boers back, occupied the entrenchments, cap-

tured five guns and compelled the enemy to

retreat.

GENERAL SYMONS SEVERELY WOUNDED.

This victory was a costly one, since General

Symons was severely wounded, and the British

losses in taking the heights were serious. But

the engagement was decisive, and the Boer tactics

especially distinguished itself. Two foreign at-

tacks in London quoted last night the opinion

of a German officer attached to Kitchener's

army in the South that "The English artillery

fire was simply incredible." It was absolutely

decisive in effect upon the Boer guns. The

Boers who were as formidable in guerrilla war-

fare seemed to be playing at scientific warfare,

and were readily routed. The charge of the two

regiments was irresistible, and must have as-

tonished the peasant farmers who had fancied

such Laing's Nek and Majuba, that they were

formidable warriors. The Boers won during their

war for independence both when they were

at the top and at the bottom of almost inacces-

sible heights. This time they were at the top,

as they were at the battle of Laing's Nek, but

there was neither blundering nor wavering on

the English side. The murderous artillery prac-

tical silenced their guns, and they were unable

to hold their ground when the charge was made.

Majuba Hill was avenged. Yet the Boers fought

gallantly and bravely.

Another feature of this battle was the weak-

ness of the Boer tactics. The movement from

point against Lady Smith was a feint to oc-

cupy its main body of the British field force,

and an attempt was made to cut off com-

munication with Glencoe, but the two garrisons

remained within touch of each other by tele-

graph and the Boers did not mass sufficient

strength to crush the weaker British force.

General Symons's wound is stated officially to

be mortal, though news dispatches from Glen-

coe deny this. If he dies a career of great

promise is cut short. His reputation was es-

tablished in the recent Indian frontier war.

He was called the best of the young Indian

generals by those qualified to judge, and on

this account, while only a colonel's rank,

he was chosen to succeed Major General Botha

as the officer commanding in Natal, with the

local rank of Major General. When General

White was appointed many regretted that

Symons was not to have his chance. He has

died.

LONDON GETS THE NEWS.

News of this victory was known in London

during the forenoon, and War Office bulletins

rapidly followed one another, the chief function

of the newspapers being to print the informa-

tion as it came from official sources. The de-

termination of the War Office to restrict the

activity of special correspondents seems to be

making the shape of competing with the news-

papers. Since the Boer attack was expec-

ted the public has been greatly gratified by the

information given by the correspondents. The

following pronouncement of a prominent official

shows what the War Office insisted upon:

There are three subjects which can and ought

to be reported by the press, but not in detail

or in full detail. Let us know by

what means that a large, moderate or small force

infantry, cavalry and artillery, in all possible

combinations and permutations, have advanced

recently, etc., but do not let us inform the

newspaper that such and such squadrons or such

and such regiments have done this and so. Such

details enable the enemy to plot out men down

the roads and may lead to unnecessary captures

and losses. Let us know by

what means such and such

and such towns or fortresses have been

taken up by the Boers exactly where our trenches have been

and the number of hours' work and number

of men employed in digging them. Let us know

what supplies have been stored at such and such

posts, etc., do not tell the Boers how

many weeks or months of supplies have been

stored. If they know they can arrange to

take care of our garrisons. It is not fair on

us to hamper them in that way. Glencoe or

Laing's Nek, that the enemy should be informed

how best to shoot or starve them.

The London editors could not be brought to

face this unfeeling expression of War Office

timidity, and the war correspondents will play a

large part in the campaign and be lucky if

they are at the front.

BURNING TROOPS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

It is estimated that ten thousand men of the

Fire Army Corps sailed from England yester-

day. Today there will sail a number variously

estimated, but probably about the same strength.

A battalion each of the Grenadier, Coldstream

and Scots Guards start from Southampton. A

great detachment sails to-day from Glasgow,

Leeds and Irish ports. Officers from all parts of

the country report the splendid aspect of the

regiments, suffered with matured Reservists.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

THE AVENUE SURFACE ROAD.

The cars of this avenue between Sixth Street and

Holyoke Bridge will be stopped on Sunday morn-

ing, Oct. 22, 1899, for a few hours after 2

o'clock, to permit the laying of the main

wire from cable to electricity in that section, and

then to lay the electric line in operation in

its place.

FOUR OR FIVE GUNS CAPTURED.

The enemy, as they fled, were followed by the

cavalry, mounted infantry and artillery. The

scene of operations in Natal.

THE SCENE OF OPERATIONS IN NATAL.

the Boers had no time to remove them. A stream

of fugitives poured down the hillside, into the

valley, where the battle went on with no abate-

ment.

General Symons was wounded early in the

action, and the command then devolved on Major

Yule.

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(Continued on Third Page.)

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